

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: NATO STUDY ON IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING SUEZ
CANAL

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

REF: USNATO 0897 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT REPORT ON IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING
SUEZ CANAL. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES ARE
KEYED TO PARAS OF REFTEL.

2. PARA 2(B) MODIFY LAST SENTENCE TO READ "IN
NOVEMBER 1974, THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER,
MR. FAHMI, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE
CANAL WOULD NOT BE REOPENED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC
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UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN A UNDERLINE COMPLETE END

UNDERLINE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES BEGIN UNDERLINE
EAST OF THE END UNDERLINE CANAL...." ADD TWO NEW
SENTENCES AS FOLLOWS: PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD A DELEGATION
OF DEPUTIES FROM THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON
JANUARY 14 THAT HE WOULD REOPEN THE SUEZ CANAL; BUT
IN ORDER "TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF NAVIGATION,
ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW A FURTHER DISTANCE". HE REITERATED
HIS INTENTION TO REOPEN THE CANAL, WHEN IT IS READY,

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP GEYELIN OF THE
WASHINGTON POST.

3. PARA 4. CHANGE NEXT TO LAST SENTENCE TO READ:
"THE SOVIET UNION HAS DEPLOYED BEGIN UNDERLINE SOME
END UNDERLINE NAVAL UNITS BEGIN UNDERLINE TO MOST OF
THE IMPORTANT OCEAN REGIONS END UNDERLINE."

4. PARA 9(A). SECOND SUB-POINT, DELETE 90 PERCENT
AND SUBSTITUTE THREE-FOURTHS.

5. PARA 11 - LINE 21 - DELETE PHRASE "LITTLE MORE
THAN LIKEWARN SUPPORT TO PROPOSALS FOR AN INDIAN
OCEAN PEACE ZONE AND". SUBSTITUTE CONCLUDING CLAUSE
"ONLY PROPOGANDA SUPPORT TO THE GENERAL IDEA OF
TURNING THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE, AND
HAVE ABSTAINED ON SPECIFIC 10ZP VOTES IN THE UN."
REASON: MORE INFORMATIVE.

6. PAR 11. FINAL SENTENCE - SUBSTITUTE "ARRANGEMENT"
FOR "ACT". DELETE "SOUTH EAST". REASON: GREATER
ACCURACY.

7.PARA 12 - CHANGE LINE 7 TO READ: "BY JUNE 1974 ONLY
ABOUT BEGIN UNDERLINE ONE-FOURTH END UNDERLINE OF THE
WORLD TANKER BEGIN UNDERLINE CAPACITY END UNDERLINE
COULD,"

8. PARA 13. CHANGE FOURTH SENTENCE TO READ: "SECONDLY,
US IMPORTS...OF WHICH ABOUT 75-100 MILLION TONS COME
FROM ARAB PRODUCERS, COULD INCREASE CONSIDERABLY BY
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1980 IF CONSERVATION MEASURES NOW BEING PLANNED ARE NOT
FULLY IMPLEMENTED." REMAINDER OF PARA 13 NEEDS REVISION
TO REFLECT LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SUEZ CANAL WILL NOT
BECOME A MAJOR FACTOR IN PETROLEUM SHIPMENTS TO THE
US (REFER TO OECD MARTIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE STUDY
ON EFFECT OF REOPENING THE CANAL ON THE DEMAND FOR
SHIPPING SERVICES.)

9. DELETE PARA 15. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A REAL PROBLEM.

10. PARA 18(II) DELETE LAST SENTENCE

11. PARA 20 - ADD NEW FINAL SENTENCE: "FOR INSTANCE, THEIR ATTACK ON US PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA AND THEIR

PROPAGANDA SUPPORT FOR 10PZ PROPOSALS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY EXPANDING USE OF THEIR SOMALI FACILITIES IS INDICATIVE OF THEIR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY." REASON: ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE.

12. PARA 22. DELETE FIRST CLAUSE OF FIRST SENTENCE ENDING WITH "INDIAN OCEAN". REASON: IT IS QUITE CLEAR THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND SOVIET NAVAL FORCE LEVELS IN THIS AREA.

13. PARA 22. WE BELIEVE THIS PARA IS SELF CONTRADICTORY AND COULD STAND MAJOR REWORKING. SPECIFICALLY WE BELIEVE LOSS OF BERBERA "RIGHTS" WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN "INCONVENIENCE" TO SOVIETS ON BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL GROUNDS. WHILE CANAL OPENING WILL EASE SOVIET LOGISTICS PROBLEM, WE DO NOT FOLLOW LOGIC BY WHICH THIS FACT ALONE WILL CAUSE VALUE OF SHORT FACILITIES TO DELCINE. SOME FURTHER LANGUAGE IN PARA POINTS THIS FACT OUT.

14. PARA 26. CHANGE SECOND SENTENCE TO READ: SHORTER JOURNEYS, WITH THE CONSEQUENT GREATER UTILIZATION OF A SHIP, BEGIN UNDERLINE WILL LEAD TO A SURPLUS END UNDERLINE OF SHIPPING. A SUBSTANTIAL... TO CANCELLATION; BEGIN UNDERLINE BUT END UNDERLINE

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THIS LARGEY...AND THE REDUCTION OF DEMAND BEGIN UNDERLINE FOR OIL END UNDERLINE."

15. PARA 31. DELETE SECOND SENTENCE.

16. PARA 33. LINE 9. INSERT "TO MINIMIZE" BETWEEN "AND" AND "ANY". REASON: GREATER ACCURACY.

17. PARA 35. LINE 19 CHANGE "WILL" TO "MAY" AND "1980" TO "1981".

18. PARA 38. LINE 3 WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SOVIET PENETRATION OF INDIAN OCEAN THREATENS "NATO'S LINES OF COMMUNICATION" PER SE. PERHAPS IS DRAFTERS COULD CLARIFY THEIR THOUGHT HERE.

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